

# NEW PHILADELPHIA ASSOCIATION

New Philadelphia in Illinois is the first town in the United States founded and legally registered by an African American.

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## Consultants:

**Chris Fennell, PhD**  
University of Illinois

**Sheena Franklin**  
Washington, DC

**Terry Martin, PhD**  
Illinois State Museum  
Emeritus

**Paul Shackel, PhD**  
University of Maryland

June 5, 2016

Ms. Tara Pettit, Project Manager (Acting)  
Denver Service Center – Planning Division  
National Park Service  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Ms. Pettit:

The New Philadelphia Board of Directors met on May 26, 2016 and approved the following motion: "To donate the equity New Philadelphia has in the property it owns at the time the National Park Service takes possession of the site."

The Board has also had long discussions about accelerating fundraising efforts to not only pay off the balance owned on the current property, but also discussed exercising its option to purchase the 20.5 acres now owned by the Arnett Estate that is part of the New Philadelphia site.

The team heard the NPA Board members and the community express their support and willingness to assist the National Park Service in making New Philadelphia an economically viable unit for future generations to learn, study and be inspired by the story of New Philadelphia.

Our discussions have included helping maintain the site, hosting tours, assisting visitors and helping the Park Service with special activities and events.

Several members of the Board have been working for twenty years on this project by giving their time and financial support. They are not going to stop giving that support when it is transferred to the National Park Service. The NPA Board, myself, as its current President, other officers and members pledge to continue our support to the New Philadelphia site in whatever way the National Park Service needs or requires.

Best regards,



Philip Bradshaw, President  
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